

Comments and Responses to Proposed Amendments Chapter 115; Parts I and II
Public Hearing
October 16, 2006

A public hearing on the proposed amendments to the State Board of Education Regulation 115 entitled Certification, Authorization and Approval of Educational Personnel, was held on October 16, 2006. The deadline for submission of written comments was November 6, 2006. Comments made at the public hearing, as well as written submissions were received from the following:

Commenter's:

1. Dale A. Douglass, Executive Director, Maine School Management Association
2. Jean Hathaway, Maine School Administrative District #75

CHAPTER 115; Parts I and II
Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel
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A public hearing on proposed amendments to Chapter 115 was held on Monday, October 16, 2006 from 2:00-3:00 PM, in the Burton M. Cross State Office Building ATM studio, and at three remote locations: Presque Isle High School, Presque Isle; Bangor Public Library, Bangor; Greeley High School, Cumberland.

Below are the summarized comment delivered at the public hearing, as well as written comments submitted to the Department of Education, and the State Board of Education's responses to comments.

Commenter (1)

Comment: The Maine School Superintendents Association and the Maine School Boards Association appreciate the creation of the Interim Superintendent Certificate. These associations request that the proposed Interim Superintendent Certificate be amended to allow this certificate to be renewed for up to two one-year periods upon approval of the Commissioner of Education. This amendment would address the shrinking pool of experienced superintendents available to local public school systems for temporary employment. The time period for the interim appointment as well as an assessment of the candidates experience and qualifications would be determined at the Commissioner's discretion.

Response: The proposed Interim Superintendent Certificate would allow a certified superintendent, whose certificate had lapsed, to be employed in interim capacity for up to two years during which no professional development requirements would need to be met. If after two years an individual holding the interim certificate wished to continue in interim capacity, he/she could be issued a conditional certificate and would need to meet professional development requirements.

If the Commissioner were to issue two additional one-year interim certificates, it is possible that a superintendent could have been employed for a 9 year period without being required to engage in any professional development related to the superintendency. In today's era of ever changing and increasingly complex roles and responsibilities associated with the school superintendent it is believed that remaining current and knowledgeable is critical to the effectiveness of a superintendent.

Comment Did Not Result In A Change

Commenter (2)

Comment: The commenter addressed the waiving of student teaching with permission to teach from the Commissioner and a support team. The commenter would like the provision amended to reflect that individuals who are Educational Technicians could request the waiving of student teaching with permission to teach from the Commissioner and a support team.

Response: The State Board was explicit in limiting the waiving to teachers who were conditionally certified or had a targeted need certification or a transitional endorsement..

Comment did not result in a change.